

How did Research and Extension come about?

Here's a quick history: The Morrill Act of 1862 paved the way for a land-grant university in every state. Established in 1863, K-State was the first of its kind.

In 1887, the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station was created at Kansas State Agricultural College under the provision of the Hatch Act. In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension Service.

The County Farm Bureau Law was passed in 1915 providing funds to implement the County Extension program. In 1951, the Kansas Legislature revised the law, making County Extension programs the cooperative responsibility of each County Extension Council and K-State.

The Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service were combined in 1996, forming the organization currently known as K-State Research and Extension.

What is K-State Research and Extension?

Kansas State University has a presence in all 105 Kansas counties through the University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. To fulfill its land-grant mission, K-State Research and Extension shares unbiased, practical and research-driven information with the people of Kansas. In doing so, individuals, businesses and communities are able to solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

"There is a heartfelt commitment by the people to the Extension mission," said Ernie Minton, interim dean of the College of Agriculture and interim director of K-State Research and Extension.

"These people have a missionary spirit in them that really drives them. It's not unlike what you see with educators — particularly at the grade school or high school levels where they don't expect to make an income that will make them a wealthy person. But what makes them a wealthy person is the real uplift they get from helping people."

"I like to say Extension is here to help people improve their lives, livelihoods and communities and society through education," said Gregg Hadley, director for Extension. "We're out there doing this work and that's the third leg of the three-legged mission of the Land-Grant University."

They're everywhere...They're K-Stater's

They're in our fields helping Kansas farmers improve their yields. They're working with communities to improve our health and quality of life. They bring key players to the table for discussions that impact our livelihoods. They help us continue our education and pursue new interests, as they have since we were children. They give us advice when we need it. They're working with farmers, ranchers and policymakers to extend the lifespan and in times of crisis they make sure resources get where they need to go.

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